North Rhine-Westphalia

Facts & Figures

Basic Information

- NRW is one of **the most popular short trip destinations** in Germany
- Regularly, NRW is in second place behind Bavaria in the **number of guests**
- In terms of the **number of overnight stays**, NRW is in third place on annual average behind Bavaria and Baden-Württemberg

Reachability

- 6 international **airports**, 2 of them offer connections overseas
- 2.200 kilometers of **motorways**
- 18.000 kilometers of **federal- and rural roads**
- 6.000 kilometers of **railway tracks** with more than 30 ICE, IC & EC-stations
- Due to the **good transport infrastructure**, the journey to NRW from any European metropolis does not take longer than three hours

Cities

- **Wide range for shopping enthusiasts** – from the mall to trendy neighborhoods
- CentrO Oberhausen as one of **the biggest shopping center** in Europe
- The Königsallee in Düsseldorf is very famous for **luxurios shopping**
- The Schildergasse in Cologne is one of the **most popular shopping streets** in Germany
- Numerous **trendy neighborhoods** away from the tourist spots and city centers
- Increasingly **alternative, often creative offers** for tourists such as street art tours
- Large range of **cultural offers and events**

Culture

- **6 Unesco World Heritage Sites** – Cologne Cathedral, Aachen Cathedral, Augustusburg and Falkenlust Palaces in Brühl, Zollverein Coal Mine, Covery Höxter and Lower Germanic Limes along the Rhine
- more than 1000 **museums**
- around 130 **public and private stages**
- 6 **opera houses**
- 6 **concert houses**, which offer their own program
- **Industrial culture**, including the highest exhibition hall in Europe (Gasometer Oberhausen) and the most beautiful and once largest coal mine in the world (Zollverein)
- **Musical mile** from Cologne via Düsseldorf to the Ruhr Area
- Several hundred **palaces and castles**, some with impressive parks and gardens
- The region between Cologne and the Eifel has the **highest number of water castles** in Europe

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- More than 200 **festivals** from music and theatres to literature to performances

Nature

- 1 **National Park**, in which numerous endangered animals and plants are settled
- The Eifel National Park is also a **star park**, in which a large number of stars can be seen
- 12 nature parks cover more than 40 percent of the Federal State
- The Siebengebirge, close to Bonn, is the oldest and the Nature Park Sauerland-Rothaargebirge is the youngest nature park in North Rhine-Westphalia
- More than a quarter is of the Federal State is covered by forest and water
- Around 80 reservoirs – most of them were developed for tourism
- the only wild bison herd on the European continent lives in Siegen-Wittgenstein
- the nothernmost flamingo breeding colony in Europe can be found in the Münsterland
- the Desenberg in the Teutoburg Forest is the northernmost volcano in Germany
- the wild horses in Dülmen are the only herd in Europe that has lived freely for centuries
- New habitats through industrial forests, especially in the Ruhr Area
- Panarbora in the Bergisches Land nature adventure park with the only treetop path in North Rhine-Westphalia

Enjoyment

- Over **50 star restaurants**
- 15 **EU-protected products** such as Aachener Printen or Westphalian Pumpernickel
- **Traditional cuisine** for different tastes
- The most popular **specialities** are Rheinischer Sauerbraten, Bergische Kaffeetafel and Panhas
- A long beer tradition **with Pils, Kölsch and Alt**
- Excellent and authentic **Japanese cuisine** in Düsseldorf, because of the largest Japanese community in Germany and one of the biggest in Europe

Active

Hiking

- Over 50,000 kilometers of hiking trails
- 4 "Top Trails of Germany"
- Numerous other premium hiking trails

Cycling

- Around 30.000 kilometers cycle paths
- 12 star routes certified by the ADFC, all or part of them run through NRW
- Over 700 bed + bike establishments
- Münster has already taken first place several times in the ADFC bicycle climate test
- Numerous railway cycle paths through low mountain regions, on which cyclists can enjoy panoramic views without many mountains
- In addition to normal bike paths, mountain bike trails or road bike trails exist

- Expansion of the e-bike infrastructure in recent years, including E-bike rental in bike stations and free charging stations

Theme Parks & Events

- 9 amusement parks
- 10 zoos and animal parks
- Large traditional festivals such as carnival, fairs, Christmas markets or “Schützenfest“

Travel without barriers

- The topic has been promoted across North Rhine-Westphalia since 2014 through participation in the Germany-wide uniform labeling system "Reisen für Alle"
- Dortmund and Vreden are the certified as “Tourismusort für Alle”
- Eifel National Park has been honored several times for its commitment to accessibility
- Overview of all companies that have been uniformly certified in NRW so far at www.nrw-tourism.com/barrierfree

Health

- Over 30 health and spa resorts
- Natural methods and remedies like Kneipp baths, mud baths, healing tunnels, brine cures
- Large range of prevention and lifestyle options, from classical thermal baths to nutritional courses and burnout prevention
- Aachen with the hottest thermal springs in Western-Europe

Business

- Around 100 international trade fairs in Cologne, Düsseldorf, Essen and Dortmund
- Over 70 universities with research and teaching
- Over 40 congress centers
- More than 500 conference hotels
- Numerous unusual event and event locations such as a ski hall, disused coal mine or zoo
- Varied leisure program, from visiting museums or theaters to golfing and urban nightlife

Website: www.nrw-tourism.com
Image-Video: www.youtube.com/watch?v=lc_XF_d9VoQ

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